

Finding your way around in the dictionary

Aim of worksheet

To prepare students for situations where they have to choose between two or more occurrences of the same headword which belong to different word classes.

Time and materials

Allow 5 minutes for Activity 1, and 10 minutes for Activity 2.

For the activities students need access to a copy of the *Macmillan Essential Dictionary*.

Procedure

- 1 Hand out a copy of the worksheet to each student. Ask the students to read the information shown above Activity 1 and to look at the two dictionary extracts for the word *delay*. Explain that all the activities focus on words which have more than one entry in the dictionary. You may also wish to explain that a headword is the word in **bold** and that each headword is followed by an entry.
- 2 Ask students to work through the questions in Activities 1 and 2.
- 3 When they are ready, ask the students to form pairs and check their answers.
- 4 Go through the answers with the whole class.

Answers

► Activity 1

word	entries	word classes
a delay	2	noun, verb
b delight	2	noun, verb
c demand	2	noun, verb
d diet	3	noun, verb, adjective
e dilute	2	verb, adjective
f direct	3	adjective, verb, adverb
g dirty	2	adjective, verb
h display	2	verb, noun
i double	4	adjective, verb, determiner, noun
j drop	2	verb, noun

► Activity 2

1 demand

a 3 **b** 3 **c** 2 **d** 1

2 diet

a 2 **b** 1 **c** 1 **d** 1

3 direct

a 4 **b** 1 **c** 5 **d** 4 **e** 2 **f** 2

Follow up

- 1** Ask students to find other examples in the dictionary of single words having more than one numbered entry.
- 2** Remind students that when searching in the dictionary they first have to decide which entry to look under, and once they have chosen the entry, they may have to decide between several definitions within that entry.
- 3** Ask students to talk about their experience of using the dictionary, what the processes are, and what else they noticed while searching for a piece of information.
- 4** Ask students what advice they would give to others learning how to use the dictionary.